

Our ref: TO 00000410450

Professor Richard Baker  
Department of Health Sciences  
University of Leicester

Dear Professor Baker

I am writing to you in connection with a request for information the Department of Health has received which is being considered under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act. The request has come from an Independent on Sunday journalist and asks for “Copies of all documents, minutes, official communication, emails and letters between Professor Richard Baker, from Leicester University and the Department of Health, with regard to deaths at Gosport War Memorial Hospital”.

The FOI Act requires the Department to disclose information in response to a request unless an exemption applies. There are two types of exemption in the FOI Act. The first type is an absolute exemption, whereby disclosure may be withheld if the information falls within the terms of the exemption in question. However, where the information requested is only covered by a qualified exemption, we can only withhold it if the balance of the public interest in all the circumstances of the case favours maintaining the exemption.

We are informing you of this request because of your interest in the information. If you wish to notify us of any particular issues or considerations that you consider relevant to the question of disclosure of this information, please do not hesitate to contact me. All relevant factors will be taken account of in our decision on whether the information is required to be disclosed, in particular the relevant public interest considerations both in favour of and against disclosure.

I would be grateful if you could respond to my colleague Colin Phillips by Wednesday 13 May to enable the Department to consider all relevant factors in taking a decision on whether the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires this information to be disclosed.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me or Colin Phillips. Please quote the reference number above in any future communications.